

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

The restriction requirement has been made final. Therefore, claims 21-22, 24-26 and 28-29 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Office has noted use of trademarks in the specification. After a review of the specification, the potential trademarks at issue are TESLIN and SURLYN. Each instance of these marks is capitalized and appears to be accompanied by some generic like core, material, layer, substrate, etc. Claims including the term TESLIN have been modified to provide a broader generic substitute term. If the Office has identified particular trademark usage that it believes should be further modified, please indicate by identifying the term and location in the specification.

Claims 1-20, 23, 27, 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2002-0182352 to Mitten et al. ("Mitten").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Mitten teaches a multilayer film 20 including an engineering resin layer 24 tied to a commodity resin layer 26 by means of a tie layer 28.

Claims 1-10

Claim 1 recites "...and another of the polyester materials providing a layer having a surface with bonding property for bonding directly to a core without adhesive." Mitten teaches away from the claim elements because, in contrast, it requires the use of a tie layer to tie the engineering resin layer to the commodity resin layer.

In addition, Mitten fails to teach or suggest a laminate for a document, and in particular, a laminate for bonding directly to the core as claimed. The Office contends that Mitten teaches a film directly bondable or fusable to a substrate layer (e.g., polyolefin) without an intervening adhesive. However, Mitten only refers to the use of modified polyolefins as a tie layer to bind commodity and engineering resins. There is no suggestion that these modified polyolefins correspond to a core as claimed.

The dependent claims of claim 1 include elements that further distinguish Mitten.

For example, claim 3 recites “bonding directly to the core comprising a pre-printed silica filled polyolefin document substrate of the document.” Again, Mitten only refers to modified polyolefins used for a tie layer. There is no suggestion that the tie layer can act as the core of a document or be pre-printed as claimed.

As another example, claim 9 recites “material providing the durability property comprises PCTA and the material providing the surface with the bonding property comprises PETG.” Mitten refers to these materials as potentially being part of both an engineering and additional tie layers, but does not teach the specific combination claimed that forms a laminate with PCTA and PETG providing a layer having a surface for direct bonding to a core.

As another example, claim 10 recites “the bonding property comprises a property for facilitating bonding directly to a polyester core to enable formation of a polyester document structure without a discernable interface between the polyester laminate and polyester core.” Mitten fails to teach or suggest this “polyester document structure” as claimed.

Claims 11-16

Regarding claim 11, Mitten does not teach a document laminate formed of PCTA and PETG as claimed. Mitten generally refers to PCTA and PETG among a list of other materials that might be used in both the engineering and additional tie layers. However, Mitten fails to teach or suggest that the specific formulation claimed of an outer surface of PCTA and an inner surface of PETG. In addition, Mitten fails to suggest that the engineering and tie layers could be used to form a laminate for a document.

The dependent claims of claim 11 include elements that further distinguish Mitten.

Regarding claim 13, Mitten fails to suggest the use of PETG as a bonding layer for bonding directly to a document core without adhesive in combination with the other claim elements. Claim 14 has elements that further distinguish Mitten, such as, “PCTA forms a durable outer layer on the PETG.”

Regarding claim 15, Mitten fails to teach “the PETG is operable to be bonded directly to a core using a roll to roll or platen press process” in combination with the other claim elements. Claim 16 further specifies document core materials. Mitten does not teach such document core materials. Mitten refers to a modified polyolefins, but only for use as a tie layer.

Claims 17-19

Regarding claim 17, Mitten refers to co-extruding a sheet comprising multiple layers, yet Mitten does not teach or suggest: “cooling the joined streams to form a polyester laminate in which the first polymer material provides a chemical or mechanical resistance property and the second polymer provides a bonding property for bonding directly to a core” as claimed. The result of Mitten’s co-extrusion process is a material including an engineering resin layer, a tie layer and a commodity resin layer. This co-extrusion does not form a polyester laminate with the claimed bonding property for bonding directly to a core.

Claims 20 and 23

Mitten fails to teach or suggest joining PCTA and PETG to form a laminate as recited in claim 20.

Claim 27

Mitten fails to suggest making a laminated document as claimed. Mitten does not teach joining PCTA and PETG as claimed to form a polyester laminate. Mitten refers to these materials as both being candidates for an engineering resin layer and an additional tie layer. However, there is no specific teaching to join them to form a polyester laminate including PCTA and PETG, where the PETG is used to bond the laminate directly to a printed core layer. The Office concludes that Mitten renders claim 27 obvious despite the fact that Mitten provides no such teaching. The Office contends that Mitten’s polyolefin corresponds to the claimed core. However, as noted above, Mitten uses a modified polyolefin as a tie layer between engineering and commodity resins. There is no teaching of any printing on this polyolefin, nor is there any teaching of bonding a laminate comprised of PCTA and PETG directly to it as claimed.

Claims 30-32

Mitten does not teach the laminated document structure recited in claim 30. Mitten does not teach a laminate including PCTA and PETG, and it does not teach a core layer bonded directly to the laminate using the bonding property of PETG. The Office contends that Mitten's polyolefin corresponds to the core layer yet Mitten teaches that modified polyolefin is used only as a tie layer.

Claims 31 and 32 provide additional distinguishing elements regarding types of core layers.

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Respectfully submitted,

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